IRONTON. - - MISSOURI



[Copyright, 1894, by the Author.] IE village of Oakworth was, in the expressive language of that oracular personage, the oldest inhabitant, "a straight for-

The straightforwardness of the primitive people seemed to an outsider to consist of a downright skepticism of the honesty of anyone who did not wear his heart on his coat sleeves. It was a law of the villagers to make any fresh comer give a very straight account of his antecedents even to the very minutest details. 'Tis true that things were very straightforward in the village. The daily lives of the men seemed to consist in slouching from their dismal cottages to the still more dismal pit at one end of the day, and from the pit to the cottages, and from the cottages to the village alehouse, at the other end of it. There was hardly room for the smallest divergence from the straight track in the life which these people lived.

It seems to be an inevitable law of human progress that the susceptibilities of such people should receive a great shock at some time or other. The shock came to Oakworth in a very simple manner. One day there slouched over the hill a young man who succeedof corn. His coming was rather an inopportune one-for him. It was the dull season in the village. For a long time there had not even been a scandal to discuss, and the conversations at the alehouse were getting somber and

When the day's work was done the people crowded around the new hand and poured upon him all manner of editor. questions. The stranger stood it goodtold them in pretty plain Saxon that lately." his name was John Oldcastle, but that might possess was his affair and not flippantly and carelessly, but John theirs.

From that moment John Oldcastle beneath the words. was a marked man in that village. When his name was mentioned the men wagged their heads suspiciously, and the women declared that a man who would not tell them whether he was married or not was equal to any

So John had rather a warm time of it in that village-or, perhaps, a better way of expressing a hard fact would be to say that he had a very cool time of it. The men would have nothing to do with him and the women scandalized

John Oldcastle was glad to be left alone. He did his work like a man, and the shrewd manager, thinking that a collier who did not go to the village alehouse was worthy of confidence, made him his deputy. In doing this the shrewd manager erred-as he afterwards found to his cost. It was gall and wormwood to the villagers to see John Oldcastle wielding the authority of deputy manager, and they resolved to wait their time in the hope that even in their sleepy village something would turn up which would overthrow the anticipations of the stranger.

In every village there are the elements of tragedy. Sometimes they consist of one woman and two men; sometimes two men and one woman. In a case of this sort tragedy generally comes in the shape of a wronged and deserted wife, who appears upon the scene of action just in time to prevent her truant husband from reentering into the bonds he has sought to break



"I SAY, JOHN, YOUR'E IN LOVE."

In another quarter. Not so with John Oldcastle. He never had a wife, so it him at an inopportune moment and point a terribly accusing finger at him. But the tragedy consisted in his prospective hopes of having a wife at some time in the near future. The manager, Mr. Harding, had a daughter-a fair, bright, joyful little soul. Her sympathy had gone out towards the stranger just at the time when every one seemed to take a pleasure in reviling him. And, as often happens, sympathy soon led her out of her depths, fork of lurid flame shot through the and made her wonder whither she was

One night, about twelve months after his advent in the village, John met Miss accidentally or intentionally, murder-Harding making her way over the bleak moor towards her father's house. Of feet three bit of a scribbling fellow," course, it was an accident. Lovers gener- with his notes and his sketches which ally do meet by the purest of accidents, but somehow John had made ready a speech-a very important speech- into the torrent of black water bewhich he had been thinking about all neath. day. Now was the time for its delivery, How long John Oldcastle lay parand his honest heart quivered, and the tially buried by debris will never be rising moon showed to Kate that his known. When he returned to con- ter, "this is one of the rarest paintings face was blanched as he thought of the sciousness he felt bruised and shaken. known. It is the only one by this stupendous possibilities connected with He put his hand to his head, and when artist that has even been brought to

his speech. The way I have been treated by every fumes, and he felt choked. It seemed Matterfack. "Here you air goin' into one except you and your father since I as though he was just coming out of a fits over a little 7x9 bit of paint 'cause came here has not helped to make me horrible dream. any smoother. But, believe me, Kate,

I am an honest man." "I never doubted that," she replied, will kill you," he cried as loudly as he a vulgar old thing."-Indianapolis Jourand her eyes looked confidingly upon could.

the stalwart form which was trembling

"Would you believe me if I told you that I am honest in my love for you, Kate?" he asked, and his tongue faltered. Somehow the speech he had thought so much about did not sound altogether as he expected it would sound. He raised his ponderous hand and laid it almost gently upon her shoulder. She, with the natural intuition of a woman, felt that this was only a preliminary movement, but she did not make any protest.

She laughed lightly, and said in a low, sweet voice: "I might believe it." "Might believe it! Is that all?" he asked, and his sense of disappointment crept into his voice.

"Well, I would believe it," she added. His arm went further round her shoulders. Of course, this, too, was only an accident-at any rate, it was as much an accident as their meeting on the dark moor.

"Kate, may I love you? Can I hope that you will love me in return?" If Kate Harding had stood there another moment it is more than likely she would have answered the questions in the affirmative. But whilst her answer literally quivered on her lips they were startled by a sound close to them.

"Good evening," was all the newcomer said, but the simple words made her reply: "No, I cannot give you that

John Oldcastle and Kate Harding walked towards the manager's house in silence. They parted almost in silence, but when John was walking towards his ledgings he muttered angrily: "If that fellow hadn't come I feel sure she would have said 'yes' when I asked he heard one of them turn from him her. He has come between us-a five feet three bit of a scribbling fellowfull of collars and cuffs and dandyism. Ah, well, he's my old friend, and I must not be too hard on him, but I hate him all the same."

"John, I should be glad if you will show me over the mine this afternoon. I have had a letter from the editor of a London magazine asking me to write a special article on 'Life in a Coal Mine.' ed in getting employment at the only You see, Harding does not care much colliery which the village boasted. He about this sort of thing, and as you are carried his head down-like a full ear a very old friend of mine, I would much rather trust myself to your care." The face of the deputy manager sud-

denly turned pale, then, as if ashamed of it, he went red. "What's the matter? You look as i I had asked you to show me the Devil's

cavern," said William Harrison. The deputy manager looked down upon the miniature figure of the sub-

"It's all right, Will; only I fancy temperedly for some time, and then have not been feeling very well "See a doctor, my boy: thit's the anything and everything else which he best advice I can give you," he said,

"I'll expect you round at two o'clock.

So long, I'm busy now." Punctually the two men stood at the mouth of the shaft waiting for the cage to bring up some of the miners. The dandvism of the pressman had been hidden within the dirty masses of the rough overalls'which the deputy manager had given him for the occasion. He looked a most entertaining specimen of nineteenth century culture. It was evident he did not like anyone to see him in those hopelesslooking garbs.

"Be chary, John; let us go down into the darkness. Here's Miss Harding, and I don't want her to see n.e in this

The deputy manager turned in the opposite direction, and said something which would have gone a long ways towards confirming the suspicions of the villagers if any had been lucky enough

The two men had spent over an hour in the gloomy abyss. By the aid of the faint glimmering of a safety lamp, Harrison had jotted down a number of notes, and had sketched a few plans with which to embellish his article for

the magazine. Suddenly he closed his note book, and turned towards his guide.

"You are most confoundedly gloomy to-day," he said to Oldcastle. "I can get nothing out of you except a reluctant 'Yes,' or 'No.'"

John did not trust himself to reply. His heart was rending him. He had prayed in a rough heathenish fashion to have this man given into his hand. His prayers-his curseful prayers-had, apparently, been answered, and all he could do was to reply to his many inquisitive questions in monosyllables.

"I think we had better be going," continued Harrison, who was beginning to think something was really the matter with his friend. "What's that water?

"It's not much. Simply the water flooding one of the lower seams. We have tried to stake it up the best we can, but I'm afraid it's no go. There are thousands of tons of water down in that bit of a hole."

Harrison peeped over the hoarding into the awfui depths of water. He urned aside a moment. "I say, John. You are in love. Why, you look awful. Come now; it's no good romancing about Miss Harding. She has told me many a time that she will marry no one but a gentleman."

A blast of hell-born passion conquered the deputy manager. In a was impossible for one to come upon second he seized the little sub-editor and swung him over his head, and dangled him over the torrent of water. "I-1-only mean a man who gets his living with his collar and cuffs on. I didn't mean that you were not a gentleman. Let me go."

He struggled like a child, but the immense hands held him with a terrible

Then a tragedy happened. With the suddenuess of a flash of lightning a pit, and the whole dark fabric trembled. John Oldcastle was knocked down by a heavy fall of roof. Either ously, he loosed his grip, and the "five were doomed to eternal oblivion, was falling heavily through the blackness daughter were looking at an oil paint-

he drew it back it was covered with America." "Kate, I am a rough sort of fellow. blood. The pit was full of stifling

"Harrison, Harrison, where are you? when I wanted to take you and ma to Come along or this terrible fire damp | see the seven-legged calf you said I was

But he received no reply, except a long echo down the dark passage which

sounded weird and uncanny. Then the knowledge of the accident -or the crime-came back to him. His legs trembled so badly that he could hardly walk, but he struggled on through the dark passage, until he saw a faint gleam of light from the shaft. He looked up and saw the cage slowly rise from the ground.

"Save me! save me," he cried, and staggered forward. He felt something in his hands, and he clutched at it desperately. Then he felt something drawing him quickly through the dense atmosphere. But it was a long time before he realized that he was clutching to the bottom of the ascending

When he reached the top of the shaft there was a strange sight before him. There was a crowd of women with blanched faces, and a large number of children crying piteously. He saw them peer anxiously into the faces of the four men who were in the cage, and



and say: "That worthless fellow is saved, and my husband is amongst the

Oldcastle knew that he was an object of derision-simply because he had been saved and those they loved were amongst the lost. If he could have looked half an hour into the future he would have preferred to be amongst the dead.

As he staggered from the cage he saw a little group standing close to the office of the manager.

"Aye, poor weach; it's young to dee, but it were a merciful death," said one woman, and the words fell ominously upon the ears of the young man.

"Aye, she were standing close to the mouth of the shaft, waiting for her father, when the explosion came, and itbrowt down a lump of the shaft on to her poor head. They say she's dead." "Who's dead?" he asked, excitedly.

"Mind your own affairs," the woman replied, insolently, "and be thankful you are not."

Still he staggered forward and saw Mr. Harding kneeling upon a heap of the pit bank rubbish. Heedless of ceremony, the deputy manager pushed his way through the small crowd and saw thought he could detect a jeering spirit lying dead the woman he had loved with a passion which swept everything before it. "Oh, my God, it's Kate! Come back

to me, dear!" he cried, heedless of the rough people around him. "Get up, Oldcastle, and do not repeat those words in my hearing again. She was not dear to thee, nor to any like

thee," said the manager, in an angry The young man hang his head in shame. The iron had entered into his soul and he could not make any protest. The cup of his bitterness was running over. It was for this dead woman that he had murd-oh, no, not murdered!-but allowed the accident to happen to one of his oldest friends. He was haunted by the feeling that in life perhaps she had loved the other one.

and he in his blind fury had sanctified

their love by insuring their eternal

union in and through the grave, whither they went in the same hour, perhaps in the same moment. Well might he hang down his head in shame. But it did not hang down long. There was a heart still within him, and a desperate conviction that he might still redeem something of the past by giving his life in an effort to reach some of the men who were still entombed in the mine. It was a gen-

peration. "Come, lads, who will go with me in

erous thought that arose out of his des-

search of the missing men?" he cried, in ringing tones. The men and women opened their eyes. They knew very well that if any men were still alive in the pit they were the men who had reviled this deputy manager who was now offering to risk the dangers of the terrible firedamp in an effort to carry them succor. The men who had staggered up from their cottages on hearing the explosion did not shrink from him now. One or two silently grasped his big hands, and in a very few minutes the cages were filled by many who were ready to sacrifice themselves for the sake of those who were in danger. Inspired by his courage common miners became heroes. They searched amid the blackness of the suffocating abyss, and succeeded in rescuing a dozen men from a terrible

The people wondered why John Oldcastle had done this deed of heroism for the sake of the men who hated him, and for the sake of the women that scandalized him. They did not know the tumult that was within his heart. Early next morning the villagers turned out in full force. They gathered around the house in which John Oldcastle lodged. They were going to give him a right ringing cheer in acknowledgment of his heroism. They cheered and cheered, but there was no answer. One of the leaders forced his way into the small bedroom, and found the great body of the deputy-manager stretched cold and still across the bed. There was a beautiful smile across his face. He was evidently satisfied at the thought that he too would accompany Kate Harding into the land of deathless spirits. There is to this day a simple stone standing in the churchyard recording his deed of valor. This was the only tribute the people could pay to one they had wronged and misunder-

Mr Matterfack and his wife and ing, when the old gentleman took occasion to remark that he thought it "didn't amount to no great shakes."

"Why, popper," exclaimed his daugh-

"That's just like a woman," said Mr. there ain't no other one like it, and yit

CORRUPT PRACTICES ACT. ns of the Law to Purify Election

-No Bribery of Voters -Even Treating Barred-Severe Penalties for Violating Under the Australian election law and the corrupt practices act, elections in Missouri are conducted differently from what they were a few years ago. Following is the law, known as the corrupt practices act, passed by the last legislature, which every voter

should carefully read:

Section 1. The following persons shall be deemed guilty of bribery at elections and shall be punished accordingly: First—Every person who shall directly or indirectly, by himself, or by any other person on his behalf, give, lend or agree to give or lend, or shall offer, promise, or promise to procure or endeavor to procure, any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any person, in order to induce any voter to vote, or refrain from voting, or shall corruptly do any such act as aforesaid, on account of such voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election Second—Every person who shall, directly or indirectly, by himself or by any other person on his behalf, give or procure, or agree to give or procure, or offer, prom ise, or promise to procure, or endeavor to procure any office, place or employment, public private, to or for any voter or to or for any person on behalf of any voter, or to or for any other person in order to induce such voter to vote or refrain from voting, or shall corruptly do any such act as aforesaid, on account of any voter having voted or refrained from voting at any election. Third—Every person who shall, directly or indirectly, by himself, or any other person on his behalf, make any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement as aforesaid, to or for any person, in order to induce such person to procure, or endeavor to procure, the election of any person to a public office, or the vote of any voter at any election. Fourth-Every person who shall upon or in consequence of any such gift, loan, offer, promise, procurement or agreement procure or engage, promise, or endeavor to procure, the election of any person to a public office or the vote of any voter at any vance or pay, or cause to be paid, any money to or for the use of any other person, wit the intent that such money or any part thereof shall be expended in bribery at any election, or who shall knowingly pay or cause to be paid any money, wholly or in part, expended in bribery at any election: and any person so of-fending shall be guilty of a felony and shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not less than two years and not m re than five years; and for every such of-fense he shall also forfeit the sum of \$500, with costs of suit, to any person who shall sue for the same in the name of the state of Missour to the use of the person suing, in any circuit court in this state having jurisdiction of the person of the defendant. Provided always. that the foregoing enactment shall not extend to or be construed to extend to any money paid or agreed to be paid for on account of any legal expenses bona fide incurred at or con

cerning any election. Sec 2 The following persons shall also be deemed guilty of bribery at elections and shall punished accordingly: First-Every votes who shall, before or during any election di rectly or indirectly, by himself, or by any other person on his behalf, receive, agree, or contract for any money, gift, loan or valuable consideration, office, place or employment, public or private, for himself or for any other person, for voting, or agreeing to vote, or for refraining or agreeing to refrain from voting at any Second-Every person who shall, after any election, directly or indirectly, by himself, or by any other person on his behalf receive any money or valuable consideration on account of any person having voted or re frained from voting, or having induced any other person to vote or refrain from voting at guilty of w misdemeanor, and shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not less

than one month and not more than one year. Sec. 3. Any candidate for a public office, of any person seeking to become the nominee of any party as such candidate, who, within ten days prior to any primary election or meeting held to select delegates to a convention to nom-inate a candidate for the public office which he to the election whereat an incumbent for the office so sought by him is chosen, corruptly, by himself or by any other person, directly or in directly, gives or provides or pays, wholly or in part, or promises to pay, wholly or in part, the expense of giving or providing any meat, person for the purpose of corruptly influencing that person or any other person, or (to) give or retrain fr m giving his vote at such election, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, an t upon conviction thereof shall be fined \$25 for each

Sec. 4. Every person who shall directly or in directly, by himself, or any other person on his behalf, make use of or threaten to make use of any force, violence or restraint, or inflict or threaten to inflict, by himself or by any other person, any temporal or spiritual injury, damage or harm or loss upon or against any person in order to induce or compel such person to vote or refrain from voting at any election, o who shall, by abduction, duress, or any fraudu-lent device or contrivance, impede or prevent or shall thereby compel, induce or prevail upon any elector either to give or refrain from giving his vote at any election shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the county jail not less than one month and not more than one

Sec 5. A person shall, for all purposes of this act, be deemed guilt; of the offense of personation, who, at any election held pursuant to the laws of the state, applies for a ballot paper in the name of some other person, whether that name be that of a person living or dead, or of a fictitious person, or who, having voted once at any election, applies at the same election for a ballot paper in his own name or any other name: and any person who commits the offense of personation, or who aids, abets, counsels or procures the commission of that offense, shall e guilty of a felony, and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by imprisonment in the penitentiary for a term of not less than two years or more than five years. Sec. 6. No candidate for congress or for any

public office in this state, or in any county, dis trict or municipality thereof, which office is to be filled by popular election, shall, by himself or by or through any agent or agents, committee or organization or any person or per sons whatsoever. in the aggregate pay out o expend, or promise or agree to offer to pay, contribute or expend any money or other val uable thing in order to secure or ail in secur ing his nomination or election, or the nomina tion or election of any other person or persons office to be voted for at the same election, in aid of any party or measure, in excess of a sum to be determined upon the following basis, namely: For 5,000 voters or less, \$100. for each 100 voters over 5,000 and under 25,000, 12. for each 100 voters over 25,000 and under :0,000 \$1 and for each 100 voters over 50,000, fifty cents-the number of voters to be ascertained by the total number of votes cast for a preceding regular election held to fill the same, and any payment, contribution or expenditure or promise, agreement or offer t pay, contribute or expend any money or valuable thing in excess of said sum, for such ob jects or purposes, is hereby declared unlawful Sec. 7. Every person who shall be a candidate before any caucus or convention or at any pricounty, city, township, district or municipa office, or for senator or representative in the general assembly of Missouri, or for senator or States, shall, within thirty days after the ele. tion held to fill such office or place, make out issue the certificate of election to such office of place, and a duplicate thereof with the deeds for the county in which such candidate resides, a state ment in writing, which statement and to by such candidate before an officer author ized to administer oaths, setting forth in detail pended or promised by him, and to the best of his knowledge and belief by any other person endeavoring to secure or in any way in connec tion with his nomination or election to such tion or (of) any other persons at said election, and showing the dates when and the persons to whom and the purposes for which all such sums were paid, expended or promised. Such statement shall also set forth that the same is s full and explicit as affant is able to make it. No officer authorized by law to issue commissions or certificates of election shall issue a commission or certificate of election to any such person until such statement shall have been so made, verified and filed by such persons with said officer.

Sec. 8. Any person failing to comply with the provisions of the seventh section of this act shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$1,000, to be recovered in action brought in the name of | body else."-N. Y. Advertiser.

the state by the attorney general, or by the presecuting attorney of the county of the can-didate's residence—the amount of said fine to be fixed within the above limit by the jury, and Sec. 2. No person shall enter upon the duties of an elective office until he shall have filed the statement and duplicate provided for in section seven of this act, nor shall he receive any sal-

The candidate who has received the next highest vote for any office, can at any time commence action against his successful opponent. If he can prove a violation of the provisions of the law, the court is authorized to exclude officer elected and the contestant is to be installed in the place. If, however, it be proved that the contestant is also guilty of such a violation, the office shall be declared vacant, and the position shall be fifled in the manner provided by law.

All political committees are required to keep a treasurer through whose hands all receipts and disbursements are to pass. This treasurer at the end of the campaign must file with the recorder of deeds a detailed account of such receipts and expenditures.

All statements made by candidates or committees and filed for record, shall be kept open for public inspection for four years.

An attempt to conceal his account or or a failure to file as require t of the treasurer of a political committee subjects him to imprisonment in the county jail not less than two or more than six months.

AMERICAN SOCIAL LIFE.

An English Critic Records Her Impressions of Us. English people seem never to tire of writing about America. The latest criticism is published in the Queen over the signature of Harrie E. Mills. It runs in part as follows: There are in fact five great divisions comprising the American people. At the head is the intellectual class and following are the fashionable, religious, domestic and servant classes, each being sub-divided into numerous circles or cliques who cling together clannishly, resent the intrusion of other "sets" and refuse to tolerate unrecommended outsiders.

The intellectual class has its fountain head at Boston, and the Puritan people, now disciples of Ralph Waldo Emerson and versed in all the arts and sciences, endeavor to rise above the sordid standards of wealth and fashion to the plane of the true philosopher.

No doubt many people in other countries would be amused and interested in the study of the habits of the New Englanders, who are descendant of the English Puritans and who have retained their high standard of simplicity, morality and religion and dis-carded their prejudices and fanaticisms. In the most obscure agricultural districts, where the yankee twang and peculiarities of speech are painfully conspicuous, one will find the inhabitan s not only versed in the intricate political questions, but well acquainted with the works of the best English authors and familiar with the current literature of the day. From sunrise to sunset, in summer and fall, the young New Englander works, stints and saves in order that he may spend the winter months in study at an adjacent "college town." And when the fields have been gleaned of their scant productions and the rocky soil is covered with snow-when frost sparkles from trees and window panes and the family gather round a fire of crackling logs-one will find amid ensuing conversations a keen wit, an originality of criticism, a versatility and an evidence of thought that is akin to genius.

Just imagine young girls paying their college tuition with wages earned during vacation as waitresses at large hotels among mountain and seaside resorts! Hundreds of them do this without losing a jot of their dignity or lowering themselves in the eyes of their friends. Many young men utilize old dress suits in the capacities of waiters while founding their future career. They are the most faithful and conscientious people in performing their duties, and many hotel proprietors advertise as an attraction that "student waiters will see that guests are well served." and exclude the servant classes from their dining rooms.

Wealth makes little, if any, distinetion in the intellectual classes. Indeed, the daughters and sons of the rich are furnished with facilities for developing their talents after graduation, and, whether it be a profession, an art or a trade toward which a mind In the hearings held when the repubtends, one or the other must be studied with the view that self-support would and at those which preceded the Mcbe possible should reverses of fortune make it necessary. Idleness is a sin, gnorance lamentable, fashion-unless artistic-has no merit, religion must be a few cases, than it was expected to sein a measure scientific, cleanliness of mind is as necessary as the observance of laws of hygiene. - N. Y. Advertiser.

Care of Velvets. It is ruinous to velvet to brush it with anything save the softest surface. Yet velvet catches dust and all flying particles with such wonderful tenacity that it is really a problem to keep it in wearing order. Some careful women make their own whisks which they employ for nothing else and which are constructed of a very tight roll of any soft-threaded cloth frayed out for two or three inches. A perfectly new hare's foot, such as is sold for the application of face powder, ought to serve the same purpose, as it is very stout and still very soft in touch.-Philadelphia Press.

He Almed Higher. Housekeeper-Did you ever do a honest day's work in your life? Tramp-Yes, mum; I was a railroad

effects of tariff measures. It would honorable occupation? You might have been a railroad president by this time." "Yes, mum; but railroad presidents has got mighty unsartin' jobs nowtries, and should report a careful and hands of oppression with which to opadays, mum. I'm layin' low fer a re-

brakeman fer two days an' three nights.

"Then why didn't you stick to that

ceivership."-Puck. He Knew How to Ask a Favor. "Where is the other handsome lady that used to be cashier here?" he asked.

"The other?" she echoed. "O, I beg your pardon," he said. "You are the same lady. I wanted to get a twenty dollar bill changed."

secure information from all possible perity of the country is being restored sources, and would give real aid in the sand that time coupled with wise action get a twenty dollar bill changed." "It's going to leave me shot, I'm preparation of a well-framed tariff bill. on the part of those in national control afraid," she smiles, "but I guess I will | Something of this sort was attempted | are alone necessary to the esta let you have it."

And she did.-N. Y. Press. An End to All Things.

Belle was quite a tease. Whenever she wanted anything, she wanted it now. She never liked to wait. "Belle, you wear me out," said the tired mother. "I wish you would learn to have patience." "Oh!" replied Belle. "I have patience, but that wears out, too, just like anyHEARINGS ON THE TARIFF.

The decision of the senate finance ommittee to give no hearings on the Wilson tariff bill is wise. In the abstract it is indeed desirable that an inlustrial measure of this sort should be carried through only after a most careful and painstaking investigation, and with a detailed consideration of the effects in regard to each industry. But as legislation goes in the United States, the experience of the last fifteen years indicates that nothing would be gained and something would be lost by preiminary hearings.

Among the congressional documents there is a long series of reports, arguments and hearings presented at one time or another on the tariff question. There is the report and testimony of the tariff commission of 1882, in two large volumes. These are the arguments presented on the Morrison tariff bill of 1884, and on the next Morrison tariff bill of 1886. The testimony taken before the senate finance committee in 1888 fills four bulky volumes. The hearings before the committee on ways and means on the Mc-Kinley tariff act of 1890 make another thick book, and those before the present committee on ways and means on the Wilson tariff bill still another. Here we have a whole array of volumes, from which we can judge what finance committee.

Wilson bill. As to the general Wilson bill. principle, the country decided emphatic- The lockout by the Carnegie Steel ally in the elections of 1890 and 1892 & Iron company, limited, came withthat it desired a moderation of the ex- in less than a year after the McKinley treme protective system. As to details, law became operative, as a result of the hearings of the past have shown the refusal of the operatives to agree chiefly what duties those engaged in to a reduction of wages proposed by the protected industries desired, while the company. The iron and steel the main evidence which they have schedule in the McKinley law, diebrought forward in justification of tated by the Carnegie and associated their demands has consisted of lengthy comparisons of the rate of wages in European countries and in the United this country. The demand for a reduc-

make it exceedingly difficult to carry through intact any piece of legislation, however carefully prepared. Our political methods make inevitable a certain rough-and-ready element in legislation, which perhaps has its good sides as well as its bad. At all events, there are flaws of detail in every tariff act. Even the McKinley act was admitted by the protectionists to contain some mistakes, and those who favor the passage of the Wilson bill need not claim that it is immaculate. But it is an honest measure, carrying out the pledges on which th-democrate were put into power by the people. It is as carefully framed in its details as any tariff measure which has been before the community for the last thirty years. It is not likely to be improved in the provisions as to pro-tected articles by hearings or by tinkering in the senate. On the other hand, the business interests of the community demand a speedy settlement of the tariff question.-Harper's Weekly.

TWO WITNESSES.

Destruction to Industry Wrought by the McKinley Law.

Some striking commentaries on the efficacy of republican protection are being afforded nowadays. One is the would be the probable result of further statement that the Amalgamated Assohearings, if now given by the senate ciation of Iron and Steel Workers is about to dissolve, having never recov-An examination of this huge mass of ered from the blow administered in its evidence on the tariff shows that it defeat at the hands of the Carnegie vields singularly little satisfactory in- Steel & Iron company, limited. Anformation. It consists chiefly either of other is furnished by the communicageneral disquisitions on the tariff at tion of the striking silk weavers of large, or else of appeals by interested New York to the Tribune of that city parties for increase of duties on particular articles. The only object which present condition of enforced idleness hearings could now promote would be is due to the threatened reduction in an improvement of the details of the the silk tariff schedules proposed by the



THE DEMOCRATIC WASHINGTON CROSSING THE M'KINLEY DELA

WARE.-N. Y. World. States, without any reference to the tion of wages under it came before the relative efficiency of labor in the two. last presidential election, when the If it were desired really to secure Wilson bill or any other measure of trustworthy and solid information as general tariff reform was as remote as to the expediency of the different the accession of the democratic party rates of duty, it would be necessary to to full control of every branch of the have something more than this sort federal government. It was dictated of vague and ex-parte testimony. Men by greed and hostility to organized labor, and its success was understood interested in protective industries are inevitably tempted to exaggerate their to mean the imminent disorganization of the Amalgamated Association of Steel need of duties, and, indeed, will often honestly think that their business re- and Iron Workers, which, as the greatquires a greater degree of protection est of the labor organizations, had than in fact there is any occasion for. given constant and valuable support to It is an open secret, too, that they will the republican party and its protection sometimes intentionally ask for more fallacies. The striking New York silk weavers than they expect to get, so as to leave say to the Tribune of that city that some room for apparent concession. there has been a gradual process of wage reduction going on in their busilican senate bill of 1888 was prepared, ness for some years past. In the list of Kinley act of 1890, this diplomatic polreductions to which they have been compelled to submit, as they have tabicy was followed with unexpected results. Higher rates were asked, in not ulated them for the Tribune's information, the most sweeping are to be found cure; then, when the details of the bill in the years which have followed the were presented, the manufacturers operation of the McKinley law. The were as much surprised as was the first of these reductions was made a

fore the senate committee would mean of the United States have found them-

long tales of woe, and protest that any constantly reduced," and then they

country to find that they got every-

thing which they had asked. Under

the present circumstances, hearings be-

simply that those who were interested

reduction of duty would ruin them.

They would exaggerate the effect of

any change, in the hope of securing

some sort of concession, and would

throw no real light on the question

how far vested interests are really

likely to be affected by the changes in

the rates of duty. All the information

which is now likely to be got by

public hearings is already in the posses-

sion of the senate, from the voluminous

It is unfortunate that our traditions

and habits in legislation make it virtu-

ally impossible to get accurate, de-

have a commission of honest and capa-

detailed scheme for a moderation of

the tariff. Such a commission would

not content itself with hearing only

those who chose to appear; it would

agents to investigate particular cases,

carry its inquiries to other countries,

most entirely of protectionists, and its

investigation, while more fruitful than

reports of the last few years.

in the protective duties would present

been protected by a duty of 50 per cent. The duty before the adoption of the McKinley law was 49.54, but after that law went into operation it was increased to 58.56. Yet within a few months after this increase the weavers were compelled to accept another reduction in wages. There is not an item in the silk schedule on which the Wilson bill does not propose a reduction in tariff duty below the duty now maintained by the McKinley law. The fact that the silk ribbon mills at Paterson, N. J., have, tailed information as to the probable in the face of such a proposed tariff reduction, advanced the wages of their not be impossible in the abstract to weavers 20 per cent, is an eloquent commentary on the farce and fraud of ble men, who should examine the condition of the various protected indus-

few months after the law became oper-

ative. "For many years," say they to

the Tribune, "the silk ribbon weavers

selves in a very deplorable condition,

inasmuch as their wages have been

point out the fact that the industry has

press labor and despoil it of its rights. -St. Louis Republic. -The welcome report that the summon witnesses, appoint special United States tressury is in an improved condition affords further evience of the fact that the general prosin 1882, when the tariff commission of that year was appointed. Unfortunately that commission was made up al-

-If congress will execute the manthose of congressional committees, yet had the same ex-parte character. Even its task is comparatively easy. If it inif a perfectly non-partisan commission were appointed it is questionable how far congress would follow its recommendations. The absence of any concentrated responsibility in congress, and the possibility of tinkering